

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

SPD 11/19/2013

LRB Number	13-3467/2	Introduction Number	SB-396	Estimate Type	Original
Description Awards for the victims of crimes and making an appropriation					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

The State Public Defender (SPD) is statutorily authorized and required to appoint attorneys to represent indigent defendants in criminal and certain commitment proceedings. The SPD plays a critical role in ensuring that the Wisconsin justice system complies with the right to counsel provided by both the state and federal constitutions. Any legislation has the potential to increase SPD costs if it creates a new criminal offense, expands the definition of an existing criminal offense, or increases the penalties for an existing offense.

This bill authorizes a person who is a victim of certain sexual assault crimes to apply for an award for compensation from the Department of Justice (DOJ) for the payment of mental health services for the entire length of the statute of limitations for the applicable crime. DOJ may close its accounts, relating to any victim to whom DOJ has granted a compensation award, if four years have passed since a payment was made to or on behalf of the victim and, after consulting with the victim, that no further payments or services are warranted.

We do not anticipate that this bill will have a fiscal effect on the SPD.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications